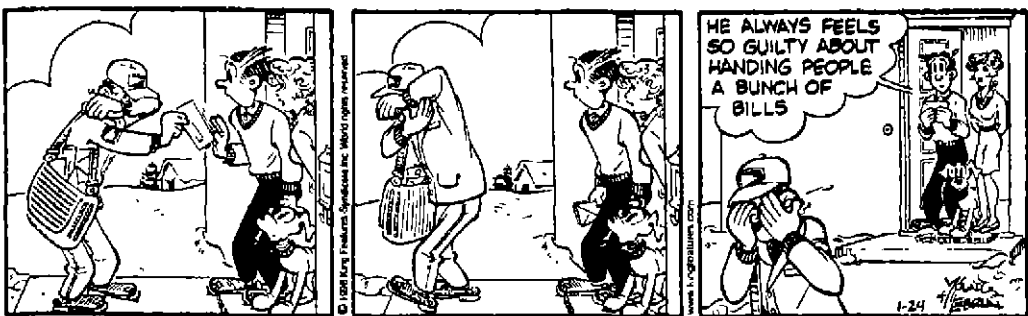


BLONDIE



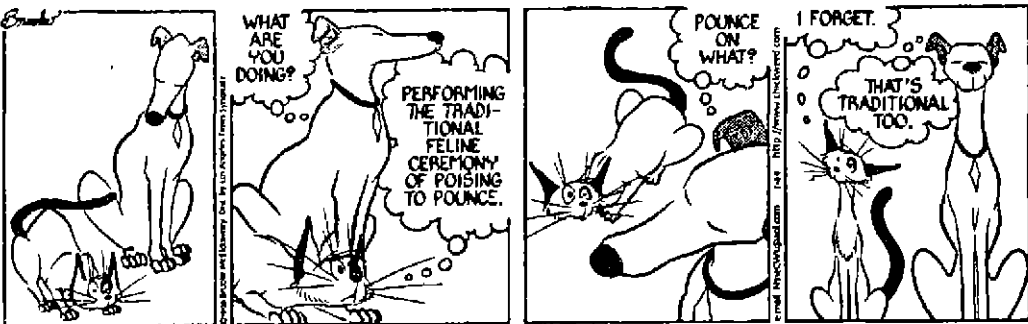
SALLY FORTH



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



9 CHICKWEED LANE



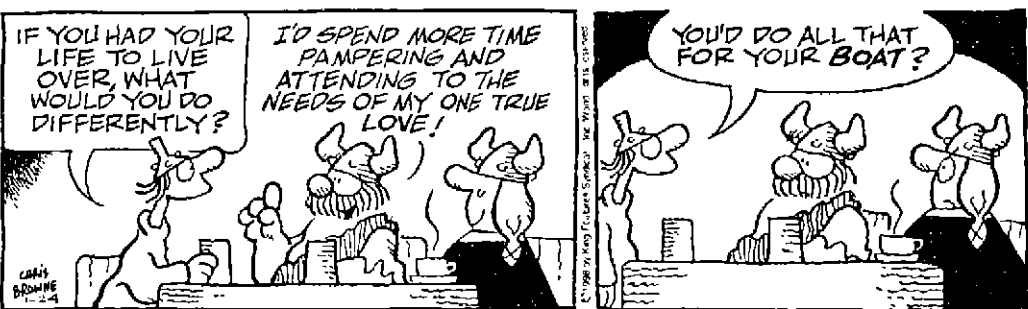
ANDY CAPP



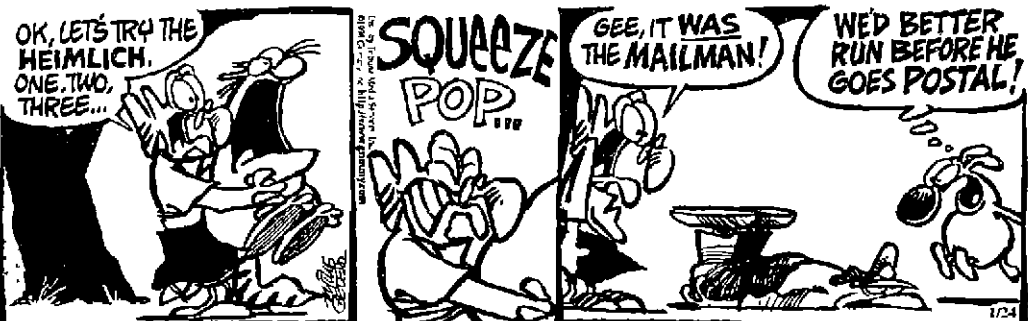
ROSE IS ROSE



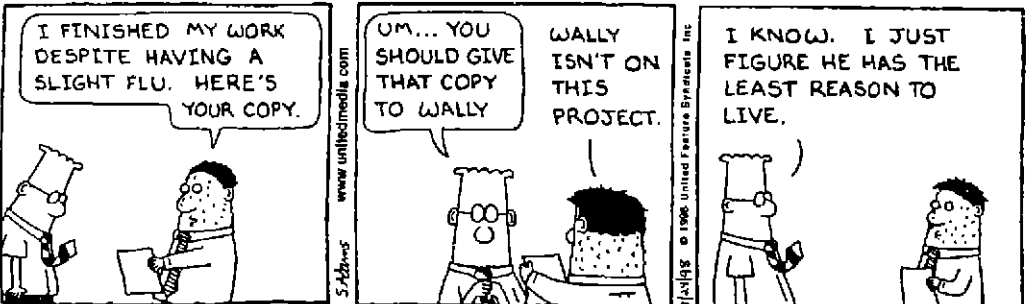
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



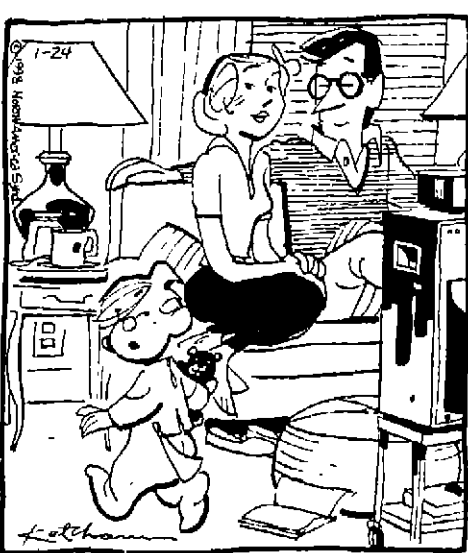
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



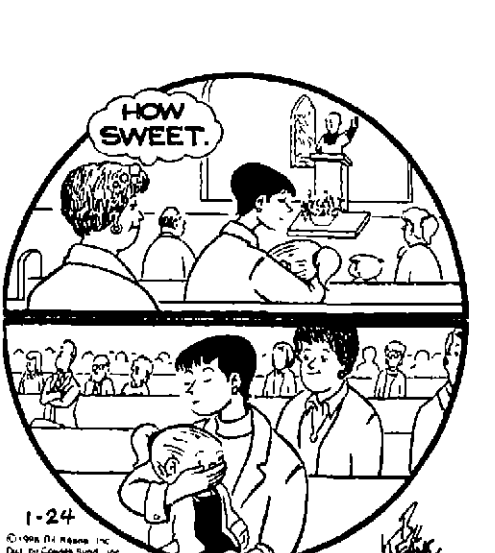
DILBERT



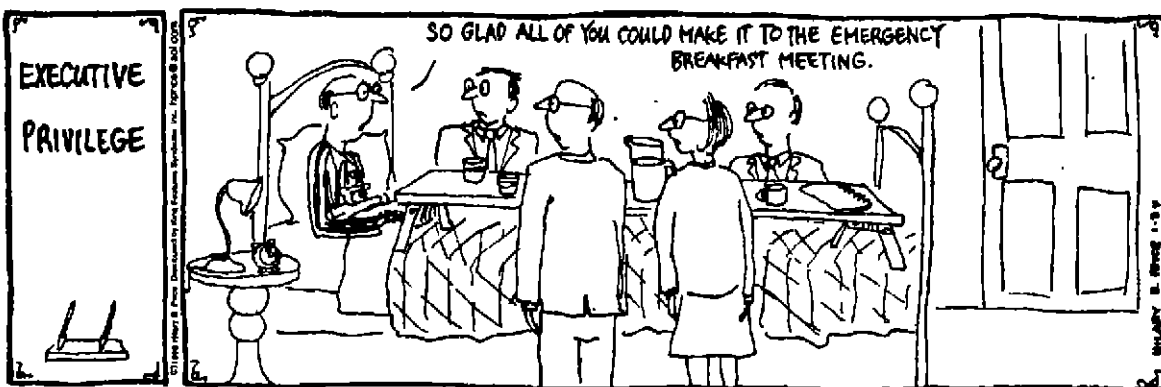
DENNIS THE MENACE



FAMILY CIRCUS



RYMES WITH ORANGE



RALPH



Today's Birthdays

Actor Ernest Borgnine is 81. Evangelist Oral Roberts is 80. Singer-songwriter Ray Stevens is 59. Singer-songwriter Neil Diamond is 57. Singer Aaron Neville is 57. Actor Michael Ontkean is 52. Country singer-songwriter Becky Hobbs is 48. Olympic gold medal gymnast Mary Lou Retton is 30. Rhythm-and-blues singer Pat Sleepy Brown (Society of Soul) is 27. Actress Tatyana Ali (The Fresh Prince of Bel Air) is 19.

I NEED HELP



SCRABBLE

PAR SCORE 140-150
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7 letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merrim Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

For solution, see Classified.

HOROSCOPE

For Sunday, Jan. 25, 1998

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Domestic developments are positive, but you could experience mixed feelings about having company over.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Things move along quickly and positively for you at home and on the job.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) It's one of those times when money makes money. New opportunities bring out your resourcefulness.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A break comes your way, but don't drop everything to celebrate. Quick action is needed to capitalize on an opportunity.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) The encouragement of others fosters your ambitions. There is much that you'll be doing of a private nature.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Some behind-the-scenes luck spurs you toward greater achievement. Don't be in such a rush, though, that you fail to listen to others carefully.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A family member asks to be included at something at that you'd rather be alone. Some compromises are necessary to keep everyone at peace.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Others adopt different tactics in an effort to make you change your mind.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) There could be some financial complications to deal with, and you won't like one offer of assistance that has some strings attached.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Rather than making business an issue with family members, it could be best to go along with their wishes.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Whether to work hard or get away from all could be a hard decision for you to make.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Watch errors in judgment in spending if an inclination to be extravagant.

WORD SLEUTH

Stock trading

T J H E C A T A E M T E E W S
X V R T W A H S K C I K L R R
P C N E L J G H F D B B F W E
Y A X V T E Y E T R D P F H Z
O V M K L S I E C G I E U I I
D I B G Z C B X L I T W R T T
U A O T R A Q O O L R N T E E
L R J M O R S E L I A D G B P
F F D C E G A B B A C M L A P
A Y T U N O G K N I G X O I A
W B A R C T U N O C O C V T W

Friday's unlisted clue: DRYER

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Saturday's unlisted clue hint: STURGEON EGGS

Appetizer Ginkgo nut Palm cabbage Truffle
Coconut crab Kickshaw Sweetmeat Whitebait
Escargot Lobster Tidbit Wild rice
Frog legs Morsel Tomalley

For solution, see Classified.

ACES ON BRIDGE

By Bobby Wolff

"We dodged a bullet," exclaimed South after the session. "Had they not blocked the club suit, I couldn't have made the no-trump game." "That's only the half of it," replied North. "Had we bid a little better, we would have reached the laydown diamond slam." Against three no-trump, West led a low club to East's queen, and South won his ace. He sneaked over to dummy's king to lead the diamond queen for a "finesse," but the crude ruse couldn't work. West won his ace and cashed his club king, but East made a foolish play instead of dropping his eight or nine, he played a lazy four. Now the club suit blocked, and the defenders could take only three clubs and the diamond ace. The no-trump game was a ghastly contract, especially when the hand was cold for 12 tricks at diamonds. How should the bidding have gone? One route is for North to bid three diamonds after South denies a major. This promises a diamond suit, and a series of cue-bids follows. South bids three hearts to confirm diamond support (he can't be bidding a suit he has denied holding), and North cooperates by cue-bidding three spades. After South cue-bids the club ace, North closes the auction with a leap to six diamonds. The play at six diamonds is routine. Regardless of what West leads, South concedes only the trump ace and has an easy claim for 12 winners.

N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 1213

ACROSS

- 1 Shook up
- 9 Line of cliffs
- 14 Stand
- 15 Puts in the mail?
- 17 Toonsmith?
- 18 Brown shade
- 19 Settle
- 20 Agitated
- 22 Commonplace
- 23 Fashion designer Picon
- 24 "..... saw Elba"
- 26 Went unused
- 28 Pedal pushers
- 27 Chuck

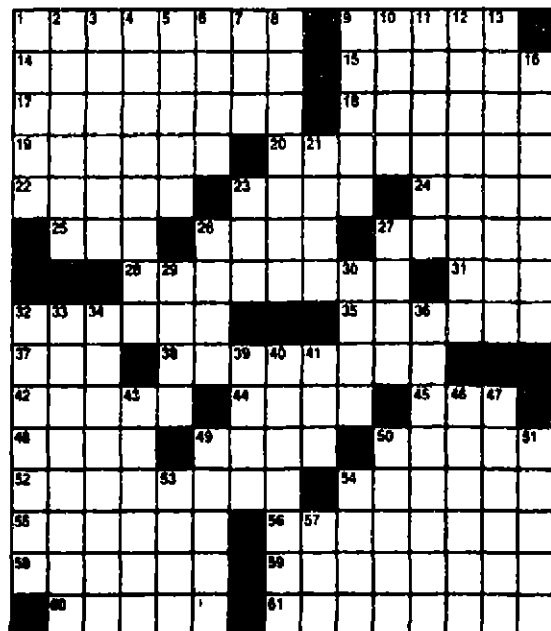
DOWN

- 26 Baddie
- 31 Wall Street org.
- 32 Early name of Nova Scotia
- 33 1913 Chemistry Nobel
- 37 Sound of impact
- 38 Western festival
- 42 Something from the oven
- 44 Comely
- 45 Start of an exchange
- 46 Superman's mother
- 48 Candle holder
- 50 Municipal dept.

- 52 "Psst!"
- 54 Deli need
- 55 Go on
- 56 Formal retraction
- 58 Play the siren
- 59 College life
- 60 Settles
- 61 Jesse Jackson, for one

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

SUITED CHIRRS
MUNDANE HANDIER
ANSALOM IRKSOME
NTH CLOONEY RID
NOON ANNES BITO
ENROL STS PUTIN
DENNISTHEMENACE
SCORECARD
CRITICALACCLAIM
REPOT TIL MENNA
ABAP BINET SITU
IAN SEVENUP MEL
ELEGIZE DRAYAGE
REMODEL ABLATED
SAGELY ROMPER



Puzzle by Richard Silver

- 26 Dictate
- 27 Basset of the comics
- 29 Traveler's O.K.
- 30 Pitcher
- 32 Ornamental shell
- 33 Desert groups
- 34 Cherubs
- 36 Servant
- 38 cry
- 40 Blow a birdie
- 41 Sales pitch?
- 43 Former Fox sitcom
- 46 1040 entry
- 47 Connected
- 48 Demeter's counterpart
- 50 Get home safely?
- 51 Riser's partner
- 53 "Shoot!"
- 54 Pole, e.g.
- 57 Suit topper

Answers to any three clues in this puzzle are available by touch-tone phone: 1-800-420-5656 (75¢ per minute). Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS